

# Will Simmons

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## Education

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**Master of Public Health, Epidemiology & Applied Biostatistics** **Aug. 2018 - May 2020**

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY

*Relevant coursework:* epidemiological study design, biostatistical methods, statistical programming (R, SAS, SQL) **GPA: 4.0**

**Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience** **Aug. 2011 - May 2015**

Baylor University, Waco, TX

*Relevant coursework:* neuroanatomy & physiology, community-based health research, biostatistics **GPA: 4.0**

## Professional Experience

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**Programmer Analyst I** **Jun. 2020 - present**

Division of Biostatistics, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY

- Data management and analysis for multiple epidemiological studies related to COVID-19 in NYC healthcare settings
- Collaborate with physicians, statisticians, data engineers, and others to create robust, reproducible analytic pipelines
- Research topics: COVID-19, pulmonary and critical care medicine, diabetes, pediatric epilepsy

**Graduate Research Assistantships** **Feb. 2019 - May 2020**

Columbia University, New York, NY

- Conducted epidemiological studies for Columbia University's Department of Epidemiology and the Columbia Earth Institute
- Research topics: air pollution epidemiology, climate epidemiology, epidemiological/biostatistical methods (see Research)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** **Aug. 2019 - Dec. 2019**

Departments of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Columbia University, New York, NY

- Instructed 25 first-year master's students once weekly in introductory biostatistics and epidemiology

**Food Systems Specialist** **Aug. 2015 - Jul. 2018**

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, Honolulu, HI

- Coordinated network of 50+ practitioners and policymakers in indigenous health and environmental justice
- Wrote successful grant proposals and contracts totaling \$600,000+ for grassroots organizational capacity building

**Lead Program Evaluator** **May 2015 - Aug. 2015**

Our Children, Their Nutrition

- Led data analytics, monitoring, and evaluation of childhood nutrition education program
- Contributed to research presented at American Public Health Association (APHA) 2015 Annual Meeting

## Research

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**Fine particulate matter, extreme heat events, and congenital heart defects** **Nov. 2019 - Feb. 2021**

Department of Epidemiology, Columbia University, New York, NY

- Conducted large, population-based case-control study on environmental risk factors for birth defects in US
- Prepare and analyze data from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS), largest US study of its kind
- Supported by nationwide research sites and the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) ([info](#))

## Climate variation and under-5 weight-for-height

Feb. 2019 - Feb. 2021

International Research Institute for Climate & Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University, Palisades, NY

- Conducted large, population-based time series study on climatic risk factors for child development in Bangladesh
- Merged, harmonized, and analyzed large, administrative climate and nutrition surveillance databases
- Contributed biostatistical/epidemiological skillset to multidisciplinary team of top Columbia researchers for ACToday

## Water quality, food security, and under-5 anthropometry

Jan. 2013 - May 2015

Baylor University, Waco, TX

- Led data collection and analysis for study of environmental risk factors for child development
- Analyses continue to inform community-led water and nutrition interventions, utilized by 1,000+

## Scholarships, Honors, and Professional Memberships

Member, Scientific Committee, NYC Epidemiology Forum	2021 - present
Member, American Statistical Association	2020 - present
1st prize - research poster presentation, NYC Clinical Climate Change Conference, Mt. Sinai	2020
1st place - research presentation, Master's Student Day, Columbia Dept. of Epidemiology	2019
Delta Omega Honor Society	2019
Wyman Scholar, Columbia University (full tuition)	2018
Outstanding Student in Neuroscience, Baylor University	2015
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society	2014
Glennis McCrary Goodrich Scholarship Award for International Research	2013
Regent's Gold Scholar, Baylor University (full tuition)	2011

## Publications

### Submitted:

Downs SD, **Simmons W**, Nissan H. Building climate-sensitive nutrition programs: a roadmap. [Submitted to WHO Bulletin February 2021.]

### In preparation:

**Simmons W**, Stingone J, Luben T, Sheridan S, Langlois P, Shaw G, Reefhuis J, Romitti P, Feldkamp M, Nembhard W, Browne M, Lin S, and the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. Joint effects of prenatal exposure to fine particulate matter and extreme heat on congenital heart defects in offspring. [Anticipated submission to Environment International Spring 2021.]

## Presentations and Conferences

**Simmons W**, Nissan H (2020). *Climate variation and anthropometric indicators of under-5 nutrition: Bangladesh, 1990-2006*. Poster, 2nd Annual Conference on Clinical Climate Change. Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. New York, NY. First prize.

Research Computing Bootcamp: UNIX, Git, Python (2020). Attendee. Columbia University. New York, NY.

"Food, climate, and environment: What's next?" (2019). Panel moderator and organizer. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. New York, NY.

**Simmons W**, Nissan H (2019). *Associations between climate and under-5 nutritional status in Bangladesh, 1990-2006*. Invited presentation, Epi Master's Student Day. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. New York, NY. First prize.

**Simmons W**, Baker L (2016). *Clean water, food security, or protein? A study of growth among children in rural western Kenya*. Contributor to presentation, 13th Annual Global Health & Innovation Conference. Yale University, New Haven, CT.

## Skills

### Languages, Software, & Tools

Daily: R (tidyverse, data.table, RMarkdown, DBI), MySQL  
Weekly: SAS (Base SAS, macros), Git/DVCS/GitHub, Zotero  
Other: R Shiny (proficient), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X (familiar), QGIS (familiar)

### Certifications

HIPAA, CITI Human Subjects